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Week Ending May 7, 2006

Rains Slow Spring Planting and Hay Harvest

Another week of wet weather hampered planting of spring crops and harvesting hay, as farmers across the state were limited to only three days suitable for fieldwork. Despite recent delays, corn and soybean planting progress continued ahead of the previous year and the five-year average. Cotton planting, however, fell further behind schedule with only an additional seven percent of the acreage seeded last week, compared with over 20 percent normally planted during this week. Although a few farmers were able to begin hay harvest and transplanting tobacco last week, the recent wet conditions have kept most producers out of their fields. Some of the rainfall received the first half of last week was as a result of thunderstorms, which also brought damaging hail. Damage in isolated areas of West Tennessee to recently planted crops and wheat fields was reported as moderate to severe. Overall though, the winter wheat crop continues to be rated in good-to-excellent condition. Other activities last week included side dressing and applying post-emergent herbicides to corn, spraying pastures for buttercup control, scouting crops for insect damage, and working cattle.

As of Friday, topsoil moisture levels were rated 2 percent short, 67 percent adequate, and 31 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 1 percent very short, 11 percent short, 76 percent adequate, and 12 percent surplus. Temperatures across Tennessee last week averaged a few degrees above normal, while precipitation averaged above normal in areas that received thunderstorms and below average in areas absent of thunderstorms.

| CROP PROGRESS: Through May 7, 2006 | | | | | CONDITION: On May 5, 2006 | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|------|----------------|---------------------------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|
| Crop | This Week | Last Week | 2005 | Five Year Avg. | Item | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
| Percent | | | | | Percent | | | | | |
| Corn Planted | 92 | 87 | 87 | 90 | Hay | 1 | 7 | 33 | 49 | 10 |
| Corn Emerged | 84 | 70 | 62 | 74 | Pastures | 1 | 5 | 25 | 56 | 13 |
| Cotton Planted | 17 | 10 | 24 | 33 | Winter Wheat | 1 | 3 | 17 | 56 | 23 |
| Hay 1 st Cutting | 8 | 3 | 12 | 11 | | | | | | |
| Soybeans Planted | 13 | 7 | 12 | 10 | | | | | | |
| Tobacco Transplanted | 5 | 2 | 6 | 7 | | | | | | |
| Winter Wheat – Headed | 93 | 82 | 75 | 80 | | | | | | |

County Agent Comments

“Some planted cotton emerged to stand - other acreage may not make it due to rainfall amounts. Early planted soybeans are up or emerging. Rain the past week has put a halt to row crop work.”

Jerry Parker, Lauderdale County

“Corn planting is about complete and some will need to be replanted due to wet cool spring. Pastures are being sprayed for buttercup control and cattle producers are working cattle due to rains keeping them out of fields this week. Horn flies are already heavy on cattle and most are applying fly tags.”

Steve Glass, Decatur County

“Cotton planting is off to a sluggish start as Haywood County growers were concerned with cool, wet conditions, and now slowed by rain showers.”

Tracey Sullivan, Haywood County

“Many tobacco transplants are ready; however, the rain is keeping us out of the fields. At the present time plants are holding, but need to be set.”

Steve Walker, Macon County

“Poor drying conditions have slowed hay making to a near standstill for the past week. However, some producers are making hay-crop silage, both round bale and conventional. Livestock producers continue to report heavy populations of flies and most are applying control measures.”

Bob Sliger, Monroe County

| TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|----|-----|-----|-----------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----|
| For week ending: May 7, 2006 (with comparisons) | | | | | | | | | | |
| LOCATION | TEMPERATURE | | | | PRECIPITATION | | | | GDD BASE 60F Since April 1 | |
| | Week Ending May 7, 2006 | | | | Current Week 05/07/06 | Rain Days | Current Since January 1 | Departure From Normal | | |
| | HI | LO | AVG | DFN | | | | | Total | DFN |
| Ames_Plantation | 87 | 50 | 67 | 1 | 1.17 | 5 | 20.62 | -0.10 | 291 | 133 |
| Tri-City_RGNL_A | 79 | 46 | 62 | 3 | 0.24 | 3 | 14.66 | 0.15 | 108 | 67 |
| Brownsville_TN | 85 | 53 | 67 | 1 | 1.13 | 3 | 21.41 | 0.90 | 296 | 209 |
| Chattanooga/Lov | 82 | 44 | 65 | 2 | 0.89 | 6 | 15.92 | -5.11 | 257 | 158 |
| Clarksville_Sew | 82 | 51 | 64 | 2 | 2.25 | 7 | 16.71 | -2.38 | 229 | 126 |
| Cookeville | 81 | 46 | 62 | 1 | 1.36 | 5 | 21.30 | 0.39 | 140 | 114 |
| Covington | 85 | 51 | 66 | 1 | 1.79 | 4 | 19.76 | -0.76 | 255 | 125 |
| Crossville_AP | 78 | 47 | 61 | 2 | 1.44 | 4 | 20.54 | -0.48 | 149 | 104 |
| Dayton | 81 | 43 | 63 | -2 | 2.02 | 5 | 17.96 | -3.79 | 159 | 77 |
| Dickson_AG | 84 | 46 | 62 | -2 | 2.27 | 5 | 18.26 | -1.97 | 197 | 88 |
| Dover_1W | 83 | 50 | 64 | 2 | 1.60 | 5 | 16.81 | -3.13 | 201 | 124 |
| Dyersburg | 88 | 52 | 67 | 1 | 1.27 | 5 | 17.83 | -0.80 | 309 | 154 |
| Erwin_1W | 78 | 45 | 61 | 4 | 1.18 | 4 | 17.91 | 1.39 | 105 | 35 |
| Huntingdon_Wate | 83 | 50 | 65 | 2 | 1.90 | 4 | 17.36 | -2.25 | 239 | 152 |
| Jackson_Exp_Stn | 84 | 51 | 66 | 2 | 0.98 | 5 | 20.40 | 0.76 | 280 | 159 |
| Kingston_AG | 84 | 47 | 64 | 3 | 0.70 | 4 | 21.28 | -0.50 | 173 | 120 |
| Knoxville_AP | 80 | 49 | 64 | 3 | 0.33 | 4 | 17.47 | -0.47 | 209 | 139 |
| Lewisburg | 82 | 45 | 63 | 2 | 1.43 | 4 | 19.40 | -1.13 | 223 | 149 |
| Lexington_TN | 83 | 49 | 65 | 2 | 1.38 | 5 | 18.57 | -0.42 | 236 | 206 |
| Linden | 84 | 47 | 64 | 2 | 2.20 | 6 | 20.22 | -0.89 | 218 | 127 |
| Martin | 84 | 51 | 65 | 2 | 1.70 | 4 | 20.79 | 1.39 | 216 | 114 |
| Mc_Minnville_Tn | 80 | 51 | 65 | 2 | 3.73 | 5 | 23.15 | 3.16 | 235 | 100 |
| Memphis_AG | 88 | 52 | 68 | 1 | 1.69 | 3 | 22.15 | 1.97 | 308 | 116 |
| Milan | 84 | 51 | 65 | 2 | 2.10 | 6 | 18.77 | -1.02 | 256 | 153 |
| Murfreesboro_5N | 85 | 46 | 64 | 1 | 1.75 | 5 | 22.94 | 3.48 | 232 | 66 |
| Nashville_Metro | 84 | 47 | 64 | 0 | 1.65 | 6 | 17.39 | -0.34 | 284 | 170 |
| Newcomb | 81 | 46 | 62 | 4 | 1.27 | 3 | 18.36 | -1.15 | 112 | 84 |
| Oneida | 79 | 48 | 61 | 4 | 0.79 | 5 | 18.41 | -1.10 | 120 | 12 |
| Portland_TN | 81 | 47 | 62 | 0 | 1.24 | 5 | 16.51 | -2.28 | 178 | 110 |
| Pulaski_Water_P | 82 | 49 | 63 | -3 | 2.18 | 6 | 20.85 | -0.13 | 220 | 93 |
| Savannah_6SW | 85 | 50 | 66 | 0 | 1.29 | 4 | 22.41 | 0.20 | 272 | 177 |
| Sparta_TN | 81 | 50 | 65 | 4 | 1.31 | 4 | 24.76 | 4.40 | 203 | 144 |
| Springfield | 84 | 44 | 62 | 0 | 2.04 | 6 | 19.89 | 1.63 | 163 | 96 |
| Springhill | 83 | 44 | 62 | 0 | 1.89 | 7 | 22.02 | 1.06 | 217 | 144 |
| Union_City | 83 | 53 | 65 | 2 | 2.39 | 5 | 20.94 | 1.83 | 201 | 107 |
| Waynesboro_TN | 84 | 51 | 65 | 3 | 2.91 | 6 | 24.05 | 1.62 | 207 | 100 |

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period). GDD = Growing Degree Days.
 Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more. Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
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